

Pine Plains Central School District
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amie Fredericks, President
Joseph Kiernan, Vice President, arrived at 6:34 pm.
Fred Couse, Jr.
James Griffin
Heidi Johnson
Jean Stapf

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Timm, Superintendent of Schools
Laura Rafferty, Business Manager
Julia W. Tomaine, District Clerk
Sarah Griffin, Student BOE Member

OPEN MEETING

Mrs. Fredericks opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. She led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Fredericks read the Mission and Vision statements.

Mission Statement: We develop the whole child to be a lifelong learner and a productive member of the global community.

Vision Statement: We are a district of choice offering exceptional opportunities to engage and excite our entire school community.

Mrs. Fredericks gave a shout-out to the Technology Department. January 21-28, 2024 marks Data Privacy Week. Many thanks to Rich Harlin, Jed Nye, Frank Karalak and Linda Bergmann for their hard-work keep our data private!

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:01 pm, Mrs. Fredericks opened the floor for the public hearing on the tax exemption for the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. She reviewed the highlights of what the Board of Education is considering to adopt later in the evening:

1. Provide to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers who have at least two years of applicable service in an incorporated volunteer fire company/department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service located within the School District, a partial tax exemption from school taxes,
2. To the extent of 10% of the assessed value of the property,
3. Extends or reinstates the exemption to any qualified un-remarried spouse of a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Worker killed in the line of duty,

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Jeff Spiers, Stanfordville, thanked the Board for their consideration of this exemption.

Mrs. Fredricks closed the public hearing at 6:03 pm.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

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None.

REPORT OF BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. CSArch Representatives, Scott Wolfe, Managing Principal and Brenden Brogan, AIA, NCARB gave an overview of the Buildings Condition Survey Findings that was conducted earlier in the year. The presentation highlighted the areas of concern regarding the district properties. They discussed what should be considered for future Capital Projects.
2. Mrs. Laura Rafferty, Business Official, gave her first budget workshop presentation for the 2024-25 budget season. She highlighted the goals, timeline, budget development process, overview of the current year and the budget factors for the 2024-25 budget. Dr. Timm noted that late last night the district received news that we were losing two million in foundation aid. This will be reviewed and more information will be presented to the Board at a later date.
3. Dr. Timm reminded the Board and the audience that the Community Connection Committee is hosting a "Souper Bowl" on January 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria at Stissing Mountain. Mr. Anthony, Food Service Director will be holding a class on soup making and handing out samples and recipes. This was scheduled to foster community connections. Please RSVP to Trish Audenino, p.audenino@ppcsd.org
4. Dr. Timm reviewed the number of snow closings to date. If we have on more snow day by January 31, 2024, he discussed changing the recess day on February 16, 2024 to a regular school day.
5. Dr. Timm shared the Administrators' reports for the month of January.

STUDENT BOE MEMBER'S REPORT

1. Ms. Griffin discussed the following items:
 - a. St. Judes fundraiser, "Jar Wars"
 - b. Math Bowl on 2/7/24 at Seymour Smith
 - c. Inductions are being planned for the Math Honor Society
 - d. Sports update
 - e. Senior Trip being planned, hopeful for an overnight trip
 - f. Matilda rehearsals going well. Production on March 8-10, 2024
 - g. Reported that seniors are receiving their acceptance letters and it is exciting to hear where they are going to go next fall.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to revise motion 2023/24-127 to change the title of the appointment for Leandra Costa from scorekeeper to student announcer.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-131)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda #1-5:

1. To accept the minutes from December 6, 2023 and January 3, 2024.
2. To approve the attached Financial Reports:
 - Treasurer's Report (December)
 - Appropriations Report (December)
 - Revenue Status Report (December)
 - Budget Transfer (December)
 - Warrants
 - Cafeteria Report (December)
 - Extra-Classroom (November)
3. To approve the attached recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and authorize the funds to implement special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations noting that these are confidential. to approve the attached 2023-24 Tax Change Log.
4. To approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education President is hereby authorized, along with the Superintendent of Schools, to sign the Certification Form for the submission of the 2023-24 school year Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Application for the District's Section 3012-d APPR Plan to the State Education Department. A copy of said application shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-132)

NEW BUSINESS - OTHER

Mrs. Stapf moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law which would grant a partial exemption from school taxes of certain residential real property located in the Pine Plains Central School District ("School District") used as the primary residence of certain enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department ("Volunteer Firefighters") and incorporated voluntary ambulance service ("Volunteer Ambulance Workers") located within the School District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after having given the public an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing, hereby adopts the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law and provides to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance

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Workers who have at least two years of applicable service in an incorporated volunteer fire company/department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service located within the School District, a partial tax exemption from school taxes, to the extent of 10% of the assessed value of the property, as certified by the applicable Assessor and subject to statutory requirements, for assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after January 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board further adopts the provision of such law that extends or reinstates the exemption to any qualified un-remarried spouse of a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Worker killed in the line of duty, as long as the Volunteer Firefighter or Volunteer Ambulance Worker had at least five (5) years of active service in an incorporated fire company/department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service located within the School District, and had been receiving the exemption prior to their death, as certified by the applicable Assessor and subject to applicable statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the assessors of any municipality which comprises the Pine Plains Central School District.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-133)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the attached contract between the district and Lenore Strocchia-Rivera, PhD, Psychologist of Learning Insights for the purpose of completing a neuropsychological evaluation on a particular student(s) at an estimated cost of \$5,200.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-134)

NEW BUSINESS – PERSONNEL

Mr. Couse moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to change the employment status of Laura Rafferty from provisional to permanent for the position of Business Manager I, a competitive class civil service position, effective January 17, 2024.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-135)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to extend Mark Skinner's leave as a long term leave replacement, to start on or about January 16, 2024 through on or about April 2, 2024, to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Education at a salary of Step 1 of the PPFE 2023-24 salary schedule.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-136)

Mr. Griffin moved and Mrs. Stapf seconded a motion to approve an extended sick leave for employee #2024-2 effective on or about February 5, 2024.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-137)

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to approve the request from employee #2024-1 for a FMLA leave to be effective on or about April 15, 2024.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-138)

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Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Couse seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Renee Dallmann from the position of typist, effective March 15, 2024, for the purpose of retirement.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-139)

Mr. Kiernan moved and Mr. Griffin seconded a motion to appoint the following individual(s) to the substitute list for the 2023-24 school year, pending completion of all requirements:

Rachelle Street, Teacher

Elizabeth Clark, Teacher, TA, Aide

Ryan Kolman, Teacher

Henry Gammone, Teacher Aide

Shannon Gillis, Custodial Worker

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-140)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Spiers, Community Member, Stanfordville, commented on the Tax Exemption that was approved and thanked Mr. Couse for his work on this topic.

Mr. Spiers, Community Member, Stanfordville, commented on the State Income Tax exemption.

Mr. Cavey commented on the following topics:

1. PPF Contract
2. Questioned previous meetings public comment
3. Budget overview comments
4. Three-minute rule

BOARD COMMENTS

Reminders on upcoming important dates:

1/30/2024 – Community Connection Committee Souper Bowl Event, 6:00 pm

2/7/2024 – BOE Meeting

2/10/2024 – BOE Retreat

2/21/2024 – BOE Meeting

ADJOURN

Mr. Couse moved and Mr. Kiernan seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. (Motion #2023/24-141)

Respectfully submitted,

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Julia Tomaine, District Clerk